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Declaration
OSmalls, Logan
11-21-02
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Yasumichi KUWAYAMA , et al.

Appln. No.: 09/910,872

Confirmation No.: 4044

Group Art Unit: 2833

Filed: April 24, 2001

Examiner: Ross N. Gushi

For: ELECTRIC CONNECTING TERMINAL

INVENTORS' DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

10/11/2002
We, Yasumichi Kuwayama, Masanori Onuma, and Nobuyuki Asakura, hereby declare
and state as follows:

1. We are the coinventors and applicants of the invention entitled "ELECTRIC
CONNECTING TERMINAL", disclosed and claimed in U.S. Application No. 09/910,872,
filed July 24, 2001.

2. At the time we invented the present invention, we were all employed by YAZAKI
CORPORATION (hereinafter "YAZAKI") and were employed in the **Connector**
Development Division at YAZAKI.

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3. Prior to January 5, 2000, the U.S. Filing Date of U.S. Patent No. 6,350,145, the Electric Connecting Terminal invention as described and claimed in the above referenced application was completed in Japan, as evidenced by the following:

4. Prior to January 5, 2000, having earlier conceived the idea of the Electric Connecting Terminal as set forth in the specification of the above referenced application, the present invention was formally submitted to our employer YAZAKI.

5. Prior to January 5, 2000, it was standard practice of employees of YAZAKI to submit their inventions to the **Intellectual Property Department** at YAZAKI on a Technical Memo, after their inventions were approved by their supervisors.

6. The submission of the above Technical Memo forms to the **Intellectual Property Department** at YAZAKI for the present invention occurred prior to January 5, 2000. The Technical Memos, along with an English translations thereof, are attached as Exhibits "A" and "B", and "C and "D", respectively.

7. The attached Technical Memo forms completely disclose the present invention as set forth and claimed in the above referenced application.

8. Prior to January 5, 2000 it was also standard practice for a Technical Statement of Invention be prepared of the invention prior to submission to the **Intellectual Property Department** of YAZAKI.

9. The submission of the above Technical Statement of Invention form to the **Intellectual Property Department** at YAZAKI for the present invention occurred prior to

January 5, 2000. The Technical Statement of Invention, along with an English translation thereof, is attached as Exhibits "E" and "F", respectively.

10. The attached Technical Statement of Invention completely discloses the present invention as set forth and claimed in the above referenced application.

11. Prior to January 5, 2000, it was standard practice for inventors at YAZAKI to be notified, by a Card for Notifying Creators of Invention, that their invention was submitted to the **Intellectual Property Department** at YAZAKI for preparation of a patent application.

12. In the ordinary course of business, after submission of the attached Technical Memos and the Technical Statement of Invention, the undersigned inventors received the above Card for Notifying Creators of Invention on January 6, 2000. The Card for Notifying Creators of Invention, along with an English translation thereof, is attached as Exhibits "G" and "H", respectively.

13. In the ordinary course of business, on January 28, 2000, the Intellectual Property Department of YAZAKI submitted a request for making a draft application to the EIKO PATENT OFFICE. The above request was received in the EIKO PATENT OFFICE on January 31, 2000. A copy of the above request, along with an English translation thereof, are attached as Exhibits "I" and "J", respectively.

14. The EIKO PATENT OFFICE acknowledged receipt of the above request on February 2, 2000. A copy of the acknowledgment, along with an English translation thereof, are attached as Exhibits "K" and "L", respectively.

15. The EIKO PATENT OFFICE prepared a draft Japanese patent application entitled ELECTRIC CONNECTING TERMINAL in regular order, and submitted the draft application to the Intellectual Property Department of YAZAKI on July 6, 2000. A copy of the letter from the EIKO PATENT OFFICE and the draft application, along with English translations thereof, are attached as Exhibits "M" and "N", and "O" and "P", respectively.

16. The EIKO PATENT OFFICE prepared the application ELECTRIC CONNECTING TERMINAL in regular order from July 6, 2000 through the Japanese application's filing date July 24, 2000 in the Japanese Patent Office, which is the priority document (JP 2000-222621) of the above referenced application.

We declare further that all statements made herein are of our own knowledge and are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: November 1, 2002

By: Yasumichi Kuwayama
Yasumichi KUWAYAMA

Date: November 1, 2002

By: Masanori Onuma
Masanori ONUMA

Date: November 1, 2002

By: Nobuyuki Asakura
Nobuyuki ASAKURA